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ORDINARY MEETING, 9TH JUNE, 1863.

DR. HUNT, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

It was announced that the following gentlemen had been elected since the last meeting:—

Fellows.—J. Peiser, Esq., Barnfield House, Oxford Street, Manchester; W. Spencer Cockings, 20, University Street, Gower Street; F. W. Wood, Esq., Hollin Hall, near Ripon, Yorkshire; Thomas Aitken, Esq., District Lunatic Asylum, Inverness; W. F. G. Benson, Esq., 115, Kensington, Liverpool; Danby P. Fry, Esq., Gwydyr House, Whitehall.

Local Secretaries in Great Britain.—Rev. P. B. Brodie, Rowington, near Warwick; Professor Buckman, Cirencester; Sebastian Evans, Birmingham; Charles Groves, Esq., Wareham; J. W. Jackson, Esq., Glasgow; Hector MacClean, Esq., Ballygrant, Islay; Rev. H. F. Rivers, Chatham; George Tate, Esq., Alnwick; Thomas Tate, Esq., President of the Hastings and St. Leonard's Philosophical Society, Hastings.

The following list of presents received since the last meeting, was read, and thanks voted to the donors:—The skin and skull of an adult male gorilla (*Troglodytes gorilla*), a harp formed of roots of a vegetable, and a collection of fan knives, Camma cloths, etc., etc., collected in Western Africa, presented by W. Winwood Reade, Esq.; Cook's voyages, first edition, presented by W. S. Cockings, Esq.

Mr. BENDYSHE, M.A., presented a *Human Lower Jaw and Femur*, and read the following observations on them:—

The bones I have the pleasure to present to the society this evening were discovered about a fortnight ago, by the workmen who are employed in digging for coprolites on the property of my brother, Capt. Bendyshe, at Barrington, in Cambridgeshire.

They lay between four and five feet below the surface, and about one or two inches from the rock—the green-sand in which the coprolites are contained. All the rest of the skeleton had disappeared, except a few fragments, and no relics were found with it. The individual to whom they belonged had evidently been buried at full length.

The tenant informs me that for several years past the labourers have occasionally turned up scattered human bones in different parts of the field. But it was not till about three years ago that they attracted much attention. In the Spring, however, of 1860, he resolved to under-drain a part of the field which slopes gently towards the south, and which in consequence had always been drier than the adjacent soil.

In the course of the operation a considerable number of skeletons was found, all regularly buried; many with the bosses of their shields, their spear-heads, beads, fibulæ, and other antiquities. Some of the skeletons were in very good preservation, and were those of persons of large stature, considerably over six feet. Many, if not all of them, bore unmistakable marks of violence, and had been placed in the ground without any attempt to give a trace of composure to the dead.

Some small skeletons, probably of females or children, were among the number.

A bloody conflict had evidently taken place close by, and these I am inclined to think must have belonged to the victorious party, from the depth at which the bodies were found, and the care taken that each should lie out by itself.

It appears from history, that the Danes invaded East Anglia about A.D. 870, and in 875 Cambridge, which is about six miles distant, became their head-quarters. They remained in possession of the country about fifty years; and it seems very probable, from the nature of the articles found with these bodies, that they are those of Anglo-Saxons who fell here in one of the numerous skirmishes which must have taken place during that period in the neighbourhood.

This skeleton was found some yards to the south of the sloping ground, and though the ground has been completely excavated all round it for yards, there was no trace of any other burial nearer than the numerous entombment I have just mentioned.

Some Roman coins were found, I understand, at no great distance, a short time ago, in a place about a foot below the ground, where I had myself picked out some pottery from the midst of soft burnt earth.

It is, therefore, open to question whether these bones belonged to an Anglo-Saxon, a Roman, or a British provincial.

The coins and pottery might be held as evidence that a Roman villa had once stood there, and the remains of the owner may be before us. The Anglo-Saxons, however, inhabited the Roman houses long after the fall of the empire, and possibly the possession of some such buildings or enclosures may have determined the scene of the struggle that clearly took place close by. It is evident from the soil that no trees have been planted since the period these bodies were buried.

In the Autumn the slope which is called Edix Hill will be thoroughly excavated by the coprolite diggers, and I have no doubt I shall be able to present to the society some more important remains of our ancestors than those upon the table.

Mr. C. C. BLAKE: The jaw appears to have belonged to a young individual; the angle of the jaw is everted, a character very commonly found in Roman jaws. A large proportion of animal matter is present in the bones.

Mr. CHARNOCK read a paper *On the Science of Language*. [Parts of this paper will be found embodied in an article in the present number of the *Anthropological Review*.]

The PRESIDENT said that it was considered by some that anthropology does not include the science of language. He himself could not agree with that opinion; he thought it an essential part of the science, and one which, if studied scientifically and in its broadest aspect, would produce most valuable results. Language has been indicated by some to be the true and insuperable barrier sharply dividing man from the lower animals. But this doctrine would appear chiefly to find favour amongst anatomists, who, failing to discover in their own science any rigidly defined distinction between man and